

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

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TO AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE IMMEDIATE

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JOINT STATE/AID MESSAGE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, ECON, HAITI

SUBJECT: DONOR ASSISTANCE COORDINATION

REF: PORT-AU-PRINCE 0539

1. ALTHOUGH THE DEPARTMENT HAS NOT YET RECEIVED AIRGRAM SUMMARIZED IN REFTEL, STATE/AID ARE DESIROUS OF PROMPTLY ADDRESSING ANY SHORTCOMINGS IN DONOR COORDINATION THAT WOULD IMPROVE EFFECTIVENESS OF ASSISTANCE EFFORTS.

2. WE PROPOSE TO ARRANGE MEETINGS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF KEY INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES DURING WASHINGTON VISIT OF MISSION DIRECTOR BEHOTEGUY, AND ARE TENTATIVELY AIMING FOR FEBRUARY 23 MEETING OF DONORS. IT WILL OF COURSE BE ESSENTIAL THAT BEHOTEGUY BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS SPECIFIC AREAS WHERE COORDINATION NEEDS STRENGTHENING.

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3. WE HAVE ALREADY INITIATED INQUIRIES WITH OTHER INSTITUTIONS TO ELICIT THEIR VIEWS REGARDING IMPROVED COORDINATION AND WHETHER THEY BELIEVE OTHER MECHANISMS WARRANTED THEN THE EXISTING JOINT-COMMISSION, THE WORKING GROUPS IN TRANSPORTATION AND AGRICULTURE, AND PRESENT AD HOC COORDINATION IN PORT-AU-PRINCE AND WASHINGTON.

4. EMBASSY MAY RECALL THAT BEFORE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE JOINT COMMISSION IN 1976, WE PRESSED THE WORLD BANK TO ASSUME LEADERSHIP OF A CONSULTATIVE GROUP FOR HAITI. NEITHER THE BANK NOR THE GOH EXPRESSED INTEREST IN SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT AT THAT TIME. THIS OPTION COULD BE RE-OPENED WITH THE IBRD IF POST BELIEVES GOH WOULD NOW ACCEPT CONSULTATIVE GROUP OR CONSORTIUM. WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR ASSESSMENT ASAP.

5. FOLLOWING OCTOBER 1976, JOINT COMMISSION MEETING IN HAITI, AID/W REPRESENTATIVES MET WITH OAS PROJECT COORDINATOR RESTREPO. ALTHOUGH IBRD, IDB, IMF AND AID HAD SUCCESSFULLY USED MEETING AS OCCASION FOR JOINT REPRESENTATIONS TO GOH, WE CONSIDERED AGENDA ADOPTED BY GOH DID NOT ADEQUATELY REFLECT DONOR CONCERNS AS DISCUSSED WITH OAS PRIOR TO MEETING. RESTREPO REPEATED THE ASSURANCES GIVEN IN PORT-AU-PRINCE THAT THE OAS INTENDS TO DEVELOP AND OBTAIN A CONSENSUS ON JUNE 1977 AGENDA WELL BEFORE THE MEETING DATE. WE WILL FOLLOW-UP WITH THE OAS TO ENCOURAGE OAS CONSULTATIONS WITH DONORS AT LEAST 90 DAYS IN ADVANCE OF MEETING.

6. COUNTRY TEAM IS REQUESTED TO SUBMIT SUGGESTED AGENDA ITEMS ASAP, TO ASSURE AMPLE TIME FOR DISCUSSION AMONG OTHER DONORS AND AGREEMENT BY GOH WELL BEFORE MEETING. ALSO, WE WOULD APPRECIATE COUNTRY TEAM ADVICE REGARDING COORDINATION WITH FRANCE, GERMANY AND VENEZUELA. ASSUME SUCH COORDINATION MUST CONTINUE TO BE HANDLED IN PORT-AU-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRINCE, AS WASHINGTON EMBASSIES OF THESE COUNTRIES ARE NOT WELL INFORMED ON HAITI.

7. WE WERE UNAWARE OF SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES AMONG INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES REGARDING HAITI'S PRIORITY NEEDS, BUT WILL CAREFULLY REVIEW ISSUE WITH MISSION DIRECTOR DURING HIS VISIT. AS POST KNOWS, COLLABORATION OF DONORS IN PAST HAS FACILITATED PROMPT PROJECT PREPARATION AND CONSIDERATION. FOR EXAMPLE, FAO/IDB STUDY OF AGRICULTURAL INVESTMENTS BECAME THE BASIS FOR SEVERAL PROJECTS BY VARIOUS DONORS, INCLUDING THE A.I.D. SMALL FARMER (COFFEE PRODUCTION) PROJECT. SIMILARLY, THE AID FARM TO MARKET ROAD PROJECT AND ROAD MAINTENANCE PROJECTS HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED IN CLOSEST COOPERATION WITH IBRD AND IDB. WE WISH TO CONTINUE THIS COLLABORATION AND BROADEN IT WHEREVER POSSIBLE. WE MUST, OF COURSE, CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE GOH TO ESTABLISH AND PURSUE ITS OWN DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES AND AVOID THE POSSIBILITY OF DONORS ASSUMING THE DOMINANT ROLE IN THIS REGARD.

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